

Joint Meeting Negro National and Negro  
American Leagues, Saturday Afternoon, FEB. 24,  
Hotel Grand, Fiftieth and South Parkway,  
Chicago, Illinois.

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Answering roll call by Frank A. Young, acting as secretary of the joint meeting were, Negro National League: Tom Wilson, president of the league and owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants; Abe and Effa Manley, Newark Eagles; Bill Semler, New York Black Yankees; Ed Bolden and Gottlieb, Philadelphia Stars; Cum Posey and S. H. Posey, Homestead Grays, and Alex Pompez, New York Cuban Stars.

From the Negro National League; H. G. Hall, Chicago American Giants; J. B. Greer, Cleveland Bears; George Mitchell, St. Louis Stars; J. L. Wilkinson and Tom Beard, Kansas City Monarchs; Hank Rigney, Toledo Crawfords; Dr. J. B. Martin, president of the league, and Dr. W. S. Martin and Dr. B. B. Martin, all of the Memphis Red Sox; T. H. Hayes, Jr., and Jim Taylor, Birmingham Black Barons.

The American league was also represented by its commissioner, Major Robert R. Jackson. Dr. J. B. Martin, president of the Negro American League, acted as chairman of the joint meeting.

The first official business of the joint meeting was to clear up the case of player Benjamin, claimed by the Homestead Grays. It was disposed of when Hank Rigney, Toledo representative, gave President Martin of the Negro American league a check for \$100.00 to be given to the Homestead Grays for illegally using Benjamin who had represented himself as being free last fall. The paying of the check satisfied both owners concerned and the members of both leagues.

Mitchell questioned fines on owners taking players from clubs in other leagues and read the 1939 agreement between the two leagues. President Tom Wilson of the Negro National League suggested striking out the entire clause and to make a new rule. Gottlieb motioned to amend the player agreement to read that "guilty club shall pay fine to offended club". Hall seconded motion. Carried.

Carlisle case taken up. Rigney claimed player was traded to Crawfords on May 12, 1939. Posey explains deal. Mrs. Manley read Posey's letter on Crawfords-Grays trade which included Jim Williams, Carlisle and Dukes for Bankhead. Letter dated May 12, 1939. Mrs. Manley reads another letter from Posey dated May 14, 1939, on Toledo entering the Negro National League and assuring the Toledo owners of ALL of the Crawford players. Letter from Posey dated April 19, 1939, along the same line. Mrs. Manley then stated that she believed on the face of the letters written by Posey and signed by him that Rigney and the Toledo club were entitled to all of the Pittsburgh Crawford players.

Alex Pompez declared the case most unusual and asked a special ruling. Dr. W. S. Martin claims letters of Posey clears up situation and absolves him of any responsibility to the Negro National League. S. H. Posey talks on agreement. Tom Wilson recites history of Toledo's entry in the Negro National League. Rigney declares he can produce signed contract and letter saying Carlisle would play with Toledo and stating that Carlisle had sent the contract back to the Grays



without signing it. Gottlieb declares time is being wasted discussing the Carlisle case. Cites the cases of Chester Williams and Hairston. Mrs. Manley said that in all fairness to everyone that Carlisle belongs to Toledo. Dr. B. B. Martin raises point on the house. Mitchell declares too much valuable time is being wasted and points out the need of a commissioner over both leagues.

J. L. Wilkinson suggested that both league presidents get together and decide on the legal points of the controversy. Suggests that a third party be called in if necessary. Greer declares that a trade is a trade and should remain as such. Wilson argues that the Carlisle case is a separate and distinct case.

Hall motions that the Carlisle case be decided by vote and Dr. W. S. Martin seconds. Beard asks Hall to withdraw his motion. Hall withdraws. Gottlieb motions and Pompey seconds that two presidents act with a third person who knows law if necessary. Motion carried.

Cum Posey gets the attention of the chair. He argues that Commissioner of the Negro American League, R. R. Jackson, should decide the case. Chair informs Posey that Jackson is commissioner of the Negro American League only and cannot rule on the case. Posey motions that Robert R. Jackson be elected commissioner over both leagues. Hall seconds the motion. Mrs. Manley and Tom Wilson not ready for vote. Wilson said his league will take a vote to decide when they will be ready to vote for a commissioner. Cum Posey said he would abide by Wilson's ruling. Posey withdraws motion.

Gottlieb raises question on players in Venezuela and Mexico. Hall said players were declared free agents at the Philadelphia meeting. Mrs. Manley asks if both leagues are treating themselves fair. Gottlieb wants to know to what league the jumping players belong. Gottlieb then motions that all or any players belonging to clubs in the Negro American and the Negro National Leagues, and who jumped to play with clubs outside of the United States, are the property of the said league to which the club they last signed with, this in accordance with the agreement signed by both leagues on June 20, 1939, in Pittsburgh, Pa. Dr. W. S. Martin seconded motion.

Rigney not ready for vote. Says motion conflicts with baseball law. Beard says that players are the property of the league according to baseball law. Mitchell claims motion by Gottlieb was made to keep players in the Negro National League. B. B. Martin on feet but chair recognized Pompey. Pompey said Negro National League had taken players since the June, 1939, meeting. Beard suggests that list of players of clubs in both leagues be given president of each league. Golder argues to give all players to Rigney is unfair. Gottlieb withdraws motion.

Mrs. Manley motioned that a copy of the resolution be sent to all players notifying them of the action to ban them for three years if they jumped to another country during the playing season from April 1 to October 1, and to give these jumping players time to report to their various clubs by May 1 or face the suspension. Seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.



President said that 20 copies would be printed and sent each owner. He authorized H. C. Hall to get resolutions printed. Foxes motioned that each club owner notify president of jumping players and the presidents to notify each other. Motion is seconded by Gus Foxey. Motion carried.

Foxey suggests that the president of the two leagues get with the club owners and notify their senators of players being enticed to other countries by the offer of more money. Suggests asking secretary of state not to give these jumping players passports.

Senier motions that foreign club owners be notified of the action of both leagues in reference to the suspension of the players and the three-year ban.

Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried. Moved by Mitchell and seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting for one hour for supper. Motion carried.

Joint meeting recommences.

1940 East versus West game decided for White Sox Park in Chicago on Sunday, August 18th. In case of rain, game to be played on Sunday, August 25th.

Mr. B. B. Martin motions that the next joint meeting be held in New York City in June on a date set by the two presidents. Motion seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.

Mrs. Manley discusses world series. Wilson suggests that 10 per cent be taken off the top and divided between the players of the two second place teams in each league. Gottlieb motions for a committee on the world series. All owners engage in a lively discussion. Mrs. Manley believes and so does J. L. Wilkinson that the June joint meeting is the proper time to discuss the proposed world series. Details for the East vs. West to be settled in June meeting.

Motion by J. L. Wilkinson and seconded by Hall that the two leagues play a world series in 1940. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Manley to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mr. B. B. Martin. Motion carried.

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